

## MEMBER NEWS

## Focus on a Federation Member: Island Farm c. 1847

By Danielle Failor, Site Manager, Island Farm

Nestled on the north end of Roanoke Island is the old Etheridge Homeplace, a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century dwelling originally built by Adam D. Etheridge IV as a home for himself and his new bride Frances “Fanny” Baum. Etheridge, a fourth-generation Roanoke Islander, was industrious and diverse, fishing the coastal waters and farming the sandy soil to provide for his family. Today, the Etheridge Homeplace is known as Island Farm c. 1847, a living history museum.

Over the course of one hundred and fifty years, the original home saw many changes. The process of taking the Farm back to its origins began in 1997 when four Etheridge descendants donated the Homeplace to the Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc., a nonprofit organization working to protect and preserve natural, cultural, and historic resources on the Outer Banks. During the next thirteen years a mighty transformation took place. The Homeplace was restored to its original layout, supporting outbuildings were relocated and recreated from extant regional examples, and additional land was acquired. Animals also came to call the Farm home.

The Etheridge Homeplace at Island Farm is currently the oldest period restoration of a house on Roanoke Island. Other buildings on the Farm include a Slave Cabin, Cookhouse, Smokehouse, Barns, Dairy, Privy, Blacksmith Shop, and a yet-to-be-restored windmill.

Drawing on the roots of the original farm, the mission of Island Farm is to *inspire curiosity about the diverse history of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Roanoke Island by creating authentic, tangible, and meaningful visitor experiences with the farm’s buildings, landscapes, stories, and animals*. The site is a working farm with a small corn plot, kitchen garden, working ox and wagon, cow, sheep and free ranging chickens. A cedar-roofed visitors’ center houses exhibits, farming and fishing implements, and a historic loom.

Self-guided tours are enhanced by living history demonstrations and activities conducted by interpreters dressed in period attire. Island Farm offers curriculum based education programs available by appointment in the spring and fall. Special events are hosted throughout the year such as our Sheep Shearing Day,



*Visitors to Island Farm on Roanoke Island can see living history activities offered by interpreters dressed in period attire. Here, an interpreter plows a field with an ox-drawn plow.*

Christmas Past candlelight tour, and a 150<sup>th</sup> Civil War celebration. Visit our website for other program offerings and details.

To learn more, please visit [www.theislandfarm.com](http://www.theislandfarm.com) or call (252) 473-6500.